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# ANNUAL REPORT – 2025

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JUNE 8, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

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## Annual Report of the Pastor      FY 2024-2025

Are we past, present, or future. Maybe we are all three or maybe a little of each. 2024 started out being a good continuation of the past several years. All the people, leaders, and programs of ministry at Advent were a continuation of what we had come to know and were comfortable with. All of this looked just right under the capable leadership of our former pastor Aaron and the ongoing guidance of our Congregation Council leaders, and in addition to our congregation staff. We survived the Covid years and were now ready to move into the future, but a familiar future with familiar friends. Well, that was the closing of 2024. Now all were ready to celebrate 2025. We had drawn up plans for the coming months with assurance, stability, and a comfortable vision.

Aww, the Holy Spirit - never comfortable with what was and sometimes with what is – had unexpected surprises in store for the year that is now 2025. What – WHAT do you mean - You - Spirit - are calling our Pastor Aaron to serve your people in a new congregation. WHAT ABOUT US! What about Advent?

So, this year, that we are now half way through, has been turned topsy-turvy. It is not the way it was supposed to be and we are in liminal time. That is time that is between. Between what was and what will be. Since we are always in liminal time, in other words the now of the moment, it is uncomfortable. We can't control or predict the future and we can't change the past. All we can do is live in the moment and trust that God keeps God's promises, to be with us, walk with us, and grant us peace.

So here we are together, living out our faith and doing what we have always really done – do ministry in the moment with what God has put before us. We are worshiping together, sharing prayer, singing songs, sharing bread and wine, studying the Word, passing on God's story to new generations, caring for the hungry, homeless, lonely, broken, sick, and hurting. Well, isn't that what we have always been called to do -Mission and Ministry. We are doing this strengthened by our shared faith and led by the Holy Spirit. God has provided Advent with a shared caring community, faith filled leaders, a team of faithful staff, a place out of the cold and heat and rain/snow to gather. Opportunities to be fed by one another, to be cared for and to care, to give and receive, to laugh and cry, to celebrate and mourn, in other words to be immersed in God's grace. We are those who are eternal children in paradise with our brother Jesus. As Jesus said when I am with you and you are with me – Today you are with me in the kingdom, in paradise.

So where does this liminal time lead us? It shepherds us into living in faith in the moment, since we can't do a thing to change yesterday and since the next moment is always in God's hands. We are the fortunate ones who are truly free to live in the now. We do not need to wallow in the past and/or fret anxiously about tomorrow. As God's people we are together. As God's people the Holy Spirit is with us. As disciples of Jesus our Lord prays for us and with us. Could we ask for anything more? The months that are yet to unfold will do so as God intends, not us. That is the way it should be. Advent is not our church - it is God's church, the body of Christ. As such God will not abandon the ministry, we have been called to be part of.

Therefore, let it be. Enjoy each other. Be faithful in daily witness. Live in partnership with one another and God. Look forward to what is prepared by the Holy Spirit for Advent. Just be, just be the body of Christ in the world. Open to whatever God has coming next. Live in the fulness of your faith. Know that it is not ours to control, shape, or define and be at peace with this. You see it is not an act of our will, our control, doing the right thing, making the right choice or manipulating the situation. Oh, I know that it's scary giving up our desire for control but no matter what we have told ourselves, in the end we cannot forgive ourselves for our sin of the past or shape the final destiny of tomorrow. God saw to it and continues to make it abundantly clear that we were created to live in the moment, serve God and love one another.

2025 and 2026 will bring interesting days for Advent, for each of us personally and for Kim and I as we live together in God's community. For we are blessed by God's love, filled with faithful zeal and in discipleship with Jesus.

Blessings for the day and all the weeks to come.

Pr. Dave Hinkelman (interim and yet pastor with you now and in this moment)

*Pastor Dave*

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2024 – 2025**

### *Celebrating Our Faith, Fellowship, and Future*

Dear Advent Family,

As we reflect on the past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy for the many ways God continues to bless our congregation. We have witnessed seasons of change, moments of growth, and the enduring presence of Christ in our midst. It has truly been a year of both honoring our past and embracing the promise of what lies ahead.

This year, we gave thanks for the faithful and joyful ministry of Pastor Layne, who took a new call after 10 years of dedicated service to Advent. Pastor Layne's leadership, compassion, and unwavering spirit have left a lasting mark on our church family, and we are deeply grateful for his years of guiding us in faith.

With open arms and joyful hearts, we welcomed Pastor David Hinkelmann as our interim pastor. Pastor Hinkelmann and his wife, Kim, have already become beloved members of the Advent family. His leadership and pastoral care are a blessing during this time of transition, and we are excited for the journey ahead together.

We also celebrate the wonderful addition of Marcy Layne to our lay staff. Marcy brings vibrant energy and passion to her dual roles as Youth Director and Choir Director. Her gifts in ministry, music, and mentorship are already bearing fruit in the life of our church.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Jean Pontious, whose faithful presence and musical talents continue to enrich our worship. Jean has been a steady light in our congregation, offering both spiritual strength, leadership, and joy through music.

We also want to recognize Mary Garland, who has provided steady service behind the scenes and played an important role during the pastoral transition. In addition, she undertook the large task of preparing for a particularly full Lenten season.

We are also blessed by the hard work and dedication of Courtney Pittman, whose commitment to both our in-person worship services and digital broadcasts has helped keep our community connected. Her musical talents and behind-the-scenes contributions have not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.

We also give thanks to Courtney Crum, who lovingly cares for our littlest ones during services. Her work is not only a support to parents but a true ministry of care and kindness to the youngest in our congregation.

We are very thankful for Wyatt Kerns and Savanna Lenze in their new roles as choir section leaders. Their musical excellence, commitment, and positive spirit have brought new energy and cohesion to our choir.

We offer our deepest thanks to our wonderful volunteers — whether you serve in the kitchen, the sanctuary, behind the scenes, or in front. Your time, energy, and hearts of service are what make Advent a thriving, welcoming, Christ-centered community.

As we look forward, we are excited to begin the call process with the Synod. With faith and discernment, we step into this next chapter, trusting that God is preparing just the right leader to walk with us in the years ahead.

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### **A Prayer for Our Future**

Gracious God,

Thank You for the blessings of this past year — for the leaders who have guided us, the volunteers who have served with love, and the new faces who have brought fresh energy and joy. As we step into a season of transition, we ask for Your wisdom and clarity. Guide us through the call process and open our hearts to the future You have prepared. Let our community continue to shine as a beacon of Your love and grace. In all things, may we seek to follow You, serve others, and grow in faith.

In Jesus' name we pray,

**Amen.**

With gratitude and hope,

Advent Lutheran Church Council President

Brent Welch

*Brent Welch*

**Team Purpose:**

The Administration team's purpose is to manage the church resources. Faith produces generous hearts, that we recognize we all are a gift from God to be used in his glory. Thus, we have a commitment to grow in giving of our financial resources, time, and talents to be used in the glory of the church. This team encompasses ministries in the following key areas.

- Financial accounting
- Property maintenance and improvements.
- Technology and Communication.
- Other ministries may be determined in the future.

Administration team members: Amy Lytle, Craig Dame, Mike Deeter, Bob Goldie, Larry Carpenter and Roy Hart.

**Team Leader: Delton Phillips****Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:****Tech & Communication**

Technology & Communications: Thanks to Courtney Pittman and Mike Deeter for the improvements in our technology department. Our sound room has been updated with new microphones.

**Finances**

- Maintained restricted & designated funds in accordance with donor/or Congregational Council direction-including Local Benevolence.
- Synod benevolence and Jacob's porch monthly benevolence are current and remitted the first of each month.

**Property Report & Accomplishments**

- New lights in the parking lot.
- New fire alarm panel with new horns, strobes and pull stations.
- Removal of dead bushes and trees on Advent's property.
- Multiple plumbing and electrical repairs were completed this past year on the church's property.

**Goals for Advent 2024-2025**

- Continue to replace lights with LEDS lights.
- New HVAC for the narthex and Sanctuary.

**Team Purpose:**

The Parish Life Ministry Team's purpose is to serve the needs of Advent's members and to integrate new members into our faith family. The ministries that are nested under Parish Life primarily engage with Advent's core values of fellowship, growing in faith, and welcoming.

- Fellowship: We are a family of faith in which all are welcome. We foster vibrant relationships deepened through spending time together in worship, ministry, social engagement, and walking with one another in times of personal sorrow and joy.
- Growing in Faith: We are intentional in our life-long and active pursuit of spiritual maturity through prayer, worship, studying the Scriptures, hearing God's Word, receiving the Sacraments, and serving others to grow more and more into the image and likeness of Christ.
- Welcoming: Responding to our Lord's call to "love one another," we invite and embrace all into the family of God so that they may encounter the risen and living Christ.

**Parish Life Ministry Team Leader: Erin Welch**

Parish Life meets on the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m.

**Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:****Education****SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2024-2025**

- Erin Welch, Stacy Bolzenius, Laura Bunch and Marcy Layne – teachers
- PreK- 2nd grade:
  - Used "Sparks" curriculum for Pre-K through 5th grade. Laura Bunch and Stacy Bolzenius taught the preK-3 grade. The lessons were well received and focused on Bible stories with a variety of activities.
  - There were between two to three children each week all in the same class. This grouping seemed to work well.
- 3rd-5th grade:
  - The Youth met with Erin Welch and Mary Layne and focused on different lessons from the Bible. They averaged three - five students each week with a total of 6 students participating at this grade level.
  - Confirmation class met at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays. Class was led by Pastor Aaron Layne, Amy Lytle, and Marcy Layne. Discipleship was the focus for this year's confirmation group. There are 8 confirmation students, and friends that attended events as well.

## **Fellowship**

- Ran several 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Fellowships with a theme, which were well received again this year. These were generally well attended, providing a great time for conversing.
- Two different Euchre groups continued to meet monthly throughout the year. Reach out to Bob Swinehart if you're interested in joining either group.
- As part of the Souper Bowl of Caring (and Pastor Aaron Layne's last day), we held a great chili cookoff. It came with a resounding positive reception. The idea of making it an annual event tied to the Souper Bowl of Caring was put out there for discussion.
- The Lenten Soup suppers, followed by worship, were a success. The worship services were held in the sanctuary, rather than the Fellowship Hall, this year, as they were more of a traditional service led by Pastor Hinkelman.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was well organized and led by Marcy Layne, Sarah Eiselstein, and Alysha Clous. This event was well attended.

## **Y2 Youth**

- Y2 continued to meet monthly with a variety of activities, including Bible lessons, crafts, and games, led by Marcy Layne.
- A main focus of the year was to establish relationships between the Youth and their Prayer Buddies.
- The final event was the Buddy Banquet in May, where we celebrated and honored our Prayer Buddies.
- Other activities this year included Christmas with the Staff, Hopewood Outdoor Camp Night, leading a Lenten service, and making gifts for their Prayer Buddy Owls.

## **Goals for next year:**

- Continue to build out the Parish Life team to fully support the mission of fellowship, growing in faith, and welcoming. We intend to add new teammates to help us support that mission.
- Continue to use the “Sparks” curriculum for the younger children.
- Encourage parents to support the spiritual education of their children by getting them to Sunday School more often.

**Team Purpose:**

The Social Concerns Ministry Team's purpose is to encourage and support the ministries of social outreach, Christian Care, overall witness, and other ministries as determined.

**Social Concerns Ministry Team Leader: Jennifer Parker****Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:****Thanksgiving Ingathering (Chair: Jennifer Parker)**

- This project provides Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in Central Ohio through the LSS Food Pantry. The congregation has generously supported this ministry for a number of years. Members are asked to make cash donations rather than food donations, as LSS has far more buying power than we do (\$1 = \$5.25). In November of 2024, members of the congregation donated \$2,500 to LSS. The cash donation assisted with the purchase of the needed turkeys and other food items.

**□ Blessing of the Animals (Chair: Jennifer Parker)**

- On the first Sunday in October of 2024, Advent celebrated its **30th annual** Blessing of the Animals! The theme was **“Coexistence – Make Space, Human Race”** – recognizing that humans are part of a larger web of life, where everything is interconnected. Pet parents/siblings brought their dogs and cats to be blessed by Pastor Layne. The Youth made dog treats for all the doggies in attendance. We had several new attendees who saw the post on Facebook. We even had a drive-up blessing of two beautiful but shy dogs. Those attending the service as well as other members of the congregation donated numerous cans and bags of dog and cat food for the LSS Food Pantry.

**□ God's Work, Our Hands (Chairs: Jennifer Parker and Jean Pontious)**

- In conjunction with the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands weekend (the second weekend in September), the Social Concerns Team asked the congregation to donate items to be included in "blessing bags" for the less fortunate -- items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, combs, socks, chap stick, shampoo, hand sanitizer, and soap. The items were packaged by Advent's Youth in gallon-sized zip-lock bags, along with an insert expressing God's love for the recipient and listing telephone numbers and addresses for the many forms of assistance that are available in the community. The bags were made available for members to distribute. This year we were able to assemble 300 blessing bags as a result of members' donations and two \$250 grants from Thrivent.
- The Team also asked for donations of school supplies which were given to a teacher in our congregation for distribution to students in the Columbus City Schools.

□ **LWR Quilts: Isabel's Quilters (Chair: Norma Pitts)**

- Isabel Quilters make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). A quilt is a tangible way to express love and offer support to our neighbors in need, as LWR serves in over 100 countries. The United States was added to the countries served this program year. Quilts provide shelter from the elements, warmth as bedding or covering, privacy as a door or divider, and comfort and reassurance that others care. LWR reports that these quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of the quality and consistency of size (60" x 80").
- Group members include Laura Bunch, Jane Hart, Barb Murphy, Norma Pitts, Emily Shipman, Sylvia Wallace, and Brenda Wheeler. We meet in Brenda's home where supplies can be stored and elevated tables can remain in place for our work. Special thanks to Jim Klinksick who donated materials, built and installed supports to stabilize the two quilting tables.
- Blessing of the Quilts was held on October 6, 2024 in which 54 quilts were displayed on the communion rails and blessed before delivery. On October 12, Brenda Wheeler and Emily Shipman took boxed quilts to an in-gathering at Ohio Gro for shipment to the LWR warehouse for later distribution to other parts of the world where needs are greatest.
- The group met regularly most months, the first and third Tuesday, with some time out for vacations, holidays, illnesses and other needs. Our time together was used to assemble and tie quilts for completion. In between sessions, homework was done to cut fabric squares, design and assemble kits for quilt tops, sew quilt tops and/or sew the bindings to finish quilts.
- A display with a quilt as background was set up in the narthex to promote the ministry and share feedback as to where our quilts were utilized. A map provided by LWR showed countries receiving quilts from the LWR warehouse where our quilts are sent.
- From Jane Vollrath's family donation last year, an unfinished baby quilt was completed by Brenda and Sylvia and gifted to Tony and Makenzie Maggio, our seminary student and his wife, on the birth of their baby.
- Members of the Advent family and friends may participate in this ministry through financial support, providing fabrics for quilt tops, cutting fabric squares, or donating gently used, clean unstained queen or king size sheets or other sheets that measure at least 64"x84". Thanks to all who made contributions this year. In addition, Brenda received 50 quilt tops assembled and donated by the women of St. Paul's Lutheran church (New Rome) for us to complete sometime in the future. Also, this year, a Christmas themed quilt was available for sale, and a generous donation was directed to Isabel's Quilters Ministry.

□ **Mitten Tree (Chair: Jennifer Parker)**

- A Christmas tree is set up in the Narthex in early December. Members donated dozens of hats, gloves, and scarfs for children. We also received donations from residents of The Forum. This year the items were provided to a teacher in our congregation for distribution to students attending Columbus City Schools.

□ **SOUP-ER Bowl of Caring (Chair: Pastor Aaron Layne)**

- To raise money for the LSS Food Pantry, our congregation partnered with the wonderful folks of Clinton Heights Lutheran Church. As a result, a total of \$3,163 was donated to the Pantry. We put a tackle on hunger!

□ **Bed Brigade (Chair: Trevor Downing)**

- The Bed Brigade -- a shared ministry with St. John Lutheran Church in Grove City -- provides beds to families in need while at the same time sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Since its inception, the Bed Brigade has provided over 4500 beds to families in need. This also means 4500 Bibles/Bible storybooks to bed recipients. Today the Bed Brigade builds and delivers roughly 500 beds every year, with Advent delivering roughly 60 of these. Advent has continued to be a regular partner in delivering beds, now on the second Saturday of each month.

□ **Ongoing Projects**

- The Social Concerns Team continues to sponsor the collection of aluminum pop can tabs to support the Ronald MacDonald House and used eyeglasses for donation.
- Throughout the year, members of the congregation donate items for the LSS Food Pantry and place them in the designated bin in the Narthex. The items are then delivered to the Pantry by volunteers.
- We periodically ask the congregation for items to include in Blessing Bags for the less fortunate, with the hope we will have some bags available throughout the year.

**2025-2026 Vision Goals:**

- Continue to join with the Worship & Witness Team to more effectively fulfill our mission, as both teams share the common goal of “witnessing.”
- Continue to look for opportunities to serve others beyond our local congregation.
- Recruit more people to be leaders of, or involved in, each of the ministries and to serve on the Team.

## **Team Purpose**

The Worship and Witness Team's purpose is to glorify God through worship and witness and to serve others through a variety of programs to help those in need in our congregation, our communities, and our world. It encompasses ministries in three key areas: (1) Worship, (2) Witness, and (3) Prayer Chain.

### **Worship and Witness Team Leader: Stacy Bolzenius**

Another busy – and exciting – year for this active Team that included Pastor Aaron Layne and Pastor Hinkleman, Jean Pontious, Norma Pitts, Jan Kulisek, Jane Prause, Tom Heiby; Jennifer Parker and Stacy Bolzenius (representing Social Concerns); Brent and Erin Welch, Trevor Downing, Dustin Bunch, Joseph Bolzenius (representing Parish Life). Social Concerns and Parish Life annual reports under separate cover.

### **Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Successes:**

#### **□ Worship**

- Blessed with Jean Pontious and Marcy Layne's music leadership including all the choirs and special music throughout the year.
- Jean continued to recruit individuals and groups to provide the Special Music each Sunday.
- Pastor Dave Hinkelmann and Jean Pontious continue to hold worship service weekly at The Forum, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Attendance averages between 30-35 per week.
- Music Appreciation Reception
- Blessing of the Quilts
- Old Time Gospel Sunday
- First Sunday Fellowship/Refreshments
- The Live Nativity was well attended.
- During Lent, weekly Wednesday evening services were held along with a soup supper. Holy Week offered services each evening. On Maunday Thursday and Good Friday, a noon service was offered as well as the evening service.
- Special thanks to all who serve on the Worship Teams, Altar Guild Teams, and those who provide communion elements and floral contributions, including special flowers/arrangements/adornments to the worship space. We encourage others to join the teams.

## **□ Witness**

- Several new individuals and families are regularly attending.
- Visitors are always encouraged to sign the Welcome Response Cards and share their contact information, thus allowing a Team member to follow up.

## **□ Prayer Chain**

- The Prayer Chain continues to be an invaluable witness tool with many members participating and sharing the needs of their family, friends and neighbors.

## **□ Worship Vision Goals**

- Continue the live-stream outreach
- Grow members' faith through worship
- Continue to alter church service protocols as new dynamics develop

## **□ Witness Vision Goals**

- Always strive to improve communications with members, visitors and our community.
- Develop outreach activities such as inviting a friend to Sunday services or special event.
- Encourage new member classes

## **□ Prayer Chain Vision Goals**

- Continue to encourage the sharing of community and member needs to enhance the prayer ministry that is a vital link as an avenue to request prayers, as well as to pray for and support others.

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025**

This was a busy year for the youth at Advent! What's App was used for communications to youth and parents to communicate on a weekly basis.

Sign-ups for meals, and events and permission slips were created digitally and posted on adventelc.org/youth.

When schedules allowed, the youth director attended high school student events to support the youth, such as band, orchestra, theatre, sporting events, etc.

August kicked off with a Back-to-School Bash. We ate lunch together and enjoyed time at Magic Mountain.

In September, we :

- Assembled Blessing Bags for the homeless.
- Decided on a Mission Trip through Youthworks, for summer 2025 and youth learned about it and signed up.
- Kicked off our H.A.B.I.T.S. series beginning the exploration of habits that encourage our relationship with Jesus, our church community, etc.
- Held a game day/potluck at the Layne house.

In October, we:

- Made pet treats and handed them out at the “Blessing of Animals” event at Advent!
- Had a Graeter's social Sunday
- Attended the Fall Festival at Hopewood Pines

In November, we:

- Continued our H.A.B.I.T.'s Bible Study
- Combined youth/confirmation “Brush Crazy” outing, where students used pour painting technique to make their own canvas to take home. Discussed God's creation and its uniqueness like their art.
- High School donated the meal and attended Jacob's Porch, an OSU Lutheran ministry.

In December, we:

- Had outstanding participation with youth and families in the Live Nativity event. Members participated in music, and the telling of the Birth of Jesus acting and invited friends to be a part of it as well.
- Decorated cookies for Christmas Caroling event
- Confirmation, high school and families delivered decorated cookies and Christmas Caroled to 3 area nursing home/assisted living facilities in Upper Arlington.

In January, we:

- Had Nerf night with confirmation and high school students and friends with food, fun, and how we can be armed with the word of God
- Continued H.A.B.I.T.S. Bible study
- High school brought meal and attended Jacob's Porch worship service

In February, we:

- Had a combined confirmation/high school nature hike with Holy Trinity at Quarry Trails Metropark
- Attended a Farewell reception for Pastor Aaron

- Nick Bates came and gave a special lesson about hunger to the confirmants and the high school had a Starbucks outing to catch up with each other.
- Youth Board met to review the year thus far, and discuss any items or concerns.
- Confirmants and high school chose, created, and planned for the talent show
- Had a combined lesson with both groups on “Do you need to believe in Jesus to go to Heaven?”

In March, we:

- Participated and ran the Pancake Supper and talent show. Well attended, and over \$400 was raised for the youth.
- Held VBS training/kickoff for confirmants, high school and adult volunteers
- Sorted and bagged plastic eggs for Easter Egg Hunt
- Wrapped up H.A.B.I.T.S Bible Study
- Informed and Encouraged youth of all ages to sign up for church camp at Hopewood Pines for summer week 1

In April, we:

- High school brought meal and attended Jacob’s Porch worship service
- (I)began coordinating youth volunteers for late service wine distribution.
- Had approximately 20 youth volunteers and family members set up and participate in the Easter Egg Hunt Event
- Swoop N Service: Swept out/organized garage of Advent member
- Put together final exam packages/signed cards for Advent college students

In May, we:

- Celebrated May 4th, by doing a Bible study on Good vs. Evil.
- Combined with Holy Trinity’s Youth for an end-of-the-year picnic and kickball game at Fancyburg Park. 20 youth participated
- Youth Board met to review the year and look forward to next year.

#### Some of the other items/programs:

Time and Change: Continued to support a Compassion International Student.

Promoted, collected, counted, and rolled change.

Prayer Buddy Program: Recruited O.W.L’S (Older Wiser Lutherans) to be a part of this mentoring program and paired them with our elementary aged students. Created questions for each pair to meet and answer together on a monthly basis. Had a kick-off Prayer Buddy event in the fall and an End-Of –The-Year Prayer Buddy Banquet in May.

Puppet Ministry: I chose the Easter skit and puppeteers and they performed at the Easter Egg Hunt

Percussion Christmas Program: I coordinated schedules and volunteers for the percussion retelling of the Birth of Jesus for the Family Christmas Eve services. Practices were held on Sunday mornings in November and December.

Christmas with the Staff: I planned, purchased, and set-up and tore down the events with the preschool-elementary-aged students.

Continuing Education: Attended monthly Youth Clusters in Bexley with other Youth and Family Directors, Attended the Renew Retreat at Hopewood Pines in the fall for Youth Directors, Attended the ELCA Extravaganza Convention in Lexington, KY.

## GOALS:

Foster an inclusive, welcoming environment, where youth can explore, learn and grow in their faith through a variety of ways.

Promote friendships across age groups.

Coordinate events with other youth groups and outings to benefit the faith formation of our youth.

Publicize our ministries.

## COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH (2001-2025)

2001-2025						2025						
25 yr. AVG		2025	2024	2023	2022							AVG
145	JAN	108	99	96	63	Jan	109	110	107	104		108
147	FEB	95	117	119	91	Feb	93	128	51	108		95
154	MAR	116	146	114	95	Mar	120	117	113	117	113	116
169	APR	158	102	164	139	Apr	106	165	239	120		158
143	MAY	113	104	112	116	May	125	114	119	95		113
131	JUN	0	96	101	106	Jun						0
123	JUL	0	103	100	80	Jul						0
132	AUG	0	102	106	110	Aug						0
137	SEP	0	106	115	111	Sep						0
143	OCT	0	113	121	112	Oct						0
144	NOV	0	111	111	102	Nov						0
135	DEC	0	105	115	110	Dec						0
146	AVG	147	109	114	103							147

#### COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH (1ST SERVICE)

25 yr. AVG						Jan	47	38	32	38	39
		2025	2024	2023	2022						
55	JAN	39	18	44	30	Jan	47	38	32	38	39
59	FEB	29	38	40	28	Feb	0	0	23	34	29
64	MAR	42	59	42	30	Mar	54	34	44	35	41
74	APR	65	41	63	55	Apr	37	66	99	56	65
60	MAY	44	55	44	35	May	44	46	54	32	44
56	JUN	0	0	0	50	Jun					
49	JUL	0	0	0	39	Jul					
53	AUG	0	0	43	35	Aug					
57	SEP	0	37	45	43	Sep					0
58	OCT	0	20	37	41	Oct					0
61	NOV	0	44	46	40	Nov					0
59	DEC	0	90	59	41	Dec					0
62	AVG	54	61	46	39						54

### COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH (2nd SERVICE)

Comparative Attendance by Month (Eng Service)											
25 yr. AVG		2025	2024	2023	2022						
88	JAN	69	74	75	37	Jan	62	72	75	66	69
88	FEB	81	67	69	63	Feb	93	128	28	74	81
90	MAR	74	87	72	65	Mar	66	83	69	82	72
95	APR	93	61	102	82	Apr	69	99	140	64	93
84	MAY	69	63	79	81	May	81	68	65	63	69
76	JUN	0	96	101	56	Jun					0
76	JUL	0	103	100	56	Jul					0
90	AUG	0	102	53	76	Aug					0
82	SEP	0	77	71	79	Sep					0
88	OCT	0	93	72	81	Oct					0
82	NOV	0	68	65	63	Nov					0
85	DEC	0	173	75	69	Dec					0
88	AVG	97	80	78	67						97

# VITAL STATISTICS

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

## BAPTISMS

**BRIAN JEFFERS**

**JONATHAN JEFFERS**

**STEVEN JEFFERS**

## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

**DENISE ALLMAN**

**STEVE & EMILY DENNETT AND  
TEDDY**

**JENOA & LISA JEFFERS AND  
CATHERINE (BRIAN)**

**MARK & KAREN MOELLMAN**

**JEAN YARLETTTS**

## CONFIRMED MEMBERS

**CARSON OLLANKETO**

**ARIELLE SANOW**

**JOSIAH SANOW**

**HAILEY WELCH**

## MEMBER DEATHS

**JOSIE CAPPEL – 09/28/24**

**CHUCK PAGE – 12/11/24**

**STEVEN JEFFERS – 02/12/25**

**GLENN SHARP – 03/23/25**

# BUDGET PROPOSAL 2025-2026

	(Rounded to nearest \$)	Actual 2022-2023	Actual 2023-2024	Current Budget 2024-2025	Estimated 2024-2025	Proposed Budg. 2025-26	
<b>COLLECTIONS:</b>							
Contribution- Giving	\$ 333,324	\$ 332,414	\$ 336,300	\$ 328,000	\$ 339,100		
Contribution - BEARS (9 mo. Program)	\$ 15,856	\$ 13,762	\$ 14,000	\$ 13,780	\$ 14,000		
Contribution - Kroger	\$ 615	\$ 514	\$ 600	\$ 240	\$ 400		
Contribution - Thrivent Choice	\$ 1,475	\$ 1,605	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,730	\$ 1,700		
Contribution - Building Use	\$ 6,025	\$ 5,650	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,650	\$ 5,700		
Contribution - Investment (Int/Div/G/L)	\$ 2,372	\$ 5,267	\$ 4,400	\$ 5,600	\$ 5,100		
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 359,667</b>	<b>\$ 359,212</b>	<b>\$ 361,500</b>	<b>\$ 355,000</b>	<b>\$ 366,000</b>		
<b>EXPENDITURES :</b>							as percent of 2022 budget
Ministry of Worship & Witness	\$ 38,231	\$ 35,304	\$ 36,000	\$ 35,400	\$ 37,100	10.1%	
Ministry of Social Concerns			\$ 500	\$ 330	\$ 500	0.1%	
Ministry of Parish Life	\$ 3,901	\$ 8,556	\$ 7,100	\$ 6,225	\$ 7,500	2.0%	
Ministry of Administration	\$ 69,692	\$ 80,665	\$ 76,200	\$ 73,575	\$ 77,700	21.2%	
Salaries	\$ 212,309	\$ 212,575	\$ 226,700	\$ 217,020	\$ 228,200	62.3%	
Mortgage		\$ 6,543	\$ 12,900	\$ 14,050	\$ 12,900	3.5%	
Designated Funding - Mortgage Interest	\$ 113	\$ 1,305	\$ 2,100	\$ (1,600)	\$ 2,100	0.6%	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 324,246</b>	<b>\$ 344,948</b>	<b>\$ 361,500</b>	<b>\$ 345,000</b>	<b>\$ 366,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
<b>NET PROCEEDS</b>	<b>\$ 35,421</b>	<b>\$ 14,264</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		

040000 Salaries & Taxes							
040001 Employer Payroll Taxes (except Pastor)	\$ 6,261		\$ 7,065	\$ 7,535	\$ 7,445		
040100 Pastor	\$ 47,973		\$ 47,000	\$ 64,613	\$ 47,000		
040200 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$ 17,333		\$ 26,000	\$ 17,334	\$ 26,000		
040300 Pastor FICA	\$ 4,800		\$ 7,200	\$ 4,800	\$ 7,200		
040303 Car Allowance (Pastor)	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
040304 Phone Allowance/Expense (Pastor)	\$ 520		\$ 780	\$ 520	\$ 780		
040305 Pastor Pension & Health Insurance	\$ 27,221		\$ 41,200	\$ 27,221	\$ 41,200		
040307 Health Care Expense Offset	\$ 5,267		\$ 7,900	\$ 5,267	\$ 7,900		
040400 Adult Choir Director	\$ 5,917		\$ 7,070	\$ 7,095	\$ 7,225		
040500 Bell Choir Director	\$ 1,188		\$ 1,425	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,450		
040600 Director of Music Ministries	\$ 10,280		\$ 12,336	\$ 12,336	\$ 12,556		
040700 Dir of Youth and Special Projects	\$ 17,821		\$ 21,386	\$ 21,386	\$ 21,806		
040800 Nursery Staff	\$ 2,429		\$ 2,938	\$ 2,938	\$ 2,938		
040900 Organist	\$ 11,650		\$ 13,800	\$ 13,950	\$ 14,100		
041000 Administrative Assistant	\$ 19,250		\$ 23,100	\$ 23,100	\$ 23,100		
041100 Digital Content Manager	\$ 6,250		\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500		
<b>Subtotal for 040000 Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 184,160</b>		<b>\$ 226,700</b>	<b>\$ 217,020</b>	<b>\$ 228,200</b>		
<b>050200 Mortgage</b>	<b>\$ 11,608</b>		<b>\$ 12,900</b>	<b>\$ 14,050</b>	<b>\$ 12,900</b>		
<b>Designated Funding :</b>	<b>\$ (1,682)</b>		<b>\$ 2,100</b>	<b>\$ (1,600)</b>	<b>\$ 2,100</b>		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 288,993</b>		<b>\$ 361,500</b>	<b>\$ 345,000</b>	<b>\$ 366,000</b>		

Operating Expenses : (cont'd)	April 30 2025 YTD		Current 2025 budget	EST 2024-2025	Proposed 2026 budget
	10 months	10 months			
<b>030000 Ministry of Administration</b>					
030100 Bank Fees & Charges	\$ 50		\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -
030400 Cleaning/Supplies	\$ 1,249		\$ 1,800	\$ 1,670	\$ 1,600
030500 Continuing Education - Pastor	\$ 267		\$ 1,400	\$ 267	\$ 1,400
030501 Continuing Education - Staff	\$ 1,063		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,063	\$ 1,000
030600 Council Discretionary	\$ 688		\$ 1,500	\$ 750	\$ 1,000
030800 Fin Secretary/Treasurer Supplies	\$ -		\$ 200		\$ 200
030900 Insurance Building & Liability	\$ 4,118		\$ 6,400	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,400
031000 Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 11,390		\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,500
031001 Property Improvements Accrual Expense	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
031100 Office Machines / Rentals	\$ 4,267		\$ 5,400	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
031200 Pastor Discretionary	\$ -		\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
031400 Postage	\$ 280		\$ 600	\$ 300	\$ 500
031500 Professional Expense	\$ 3,017		\$ 1,800	\$ 3,050	\$ 1,800
031600 Stationary & Office Supplies	\$ 1,361		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,800
031700 Stewardship expense	\$ -		\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
031800 Synod Delegates	\$ 590		\$ -	\$ 600	\$ -
031900 Telephone / Internet	\$ 2,570		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,100	\$ 3,000
032000 Payroll Fees	\$ 3,095		\$ 3,400	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,600
032100 Utilities	\$ 16,857		\$ 24,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 22,000
032200 Office Technology/Software	\$ 3,566		\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 7,000
032300 Outside services/other fees	\$ 5,872		\$ 8,400	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,600
032301 Accounting services	\$ -		\$ -		
<b>Subtotal for 030000 Ministry of Administration</b>	<b>\$ 60,300</b>		<b>\$ 76,200</b>	<b>\$ 73,575</b>	<b>\$ 77,700</b>

Operating Expenses :	(10 months) April 30 2025 YTD		Current 2025 budget	EST 2024-2025	Proposed 2026 budget
	10 months	10 months			
<b>010000 Ministry of Worship &amp; Witness</b>					
010100 Benevolence SOS	\$ 17,500		\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000
010101 Jacob's Porch Partnership	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
010200 Altar & Communion	\$ 2,779		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,100	\$ 3,000
010300 Evangelism (incl Advertising & Publicity)	\$ 826		\$ 2,400	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,800
010401 Community Event - Live Nativity	\$ 982		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
010402 Community Event - 60th Anniversary	\$ -				\$ 1,500
010403 Community Event - Egg Hunt	\$ 169		\$ 200	\$ 170	\$ 200
010500 Music & Supplies	\$ 998		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,400
010600 Nursery and Supplies	\$ -		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 50
010700 Organ & Tuning Repair	\$ 79		\$ 200	\$ 80	\$ 175
010900 Supply Pastor	\$ 1,400		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,675	\$ 1,375
011000 Worship Matl and Supply (Pastor)	\$ 2,071		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,225	\$ 2,000
<b>Subtotal for 010000 Ministry of Worship &amp; Witness</b>	<b>\$ 29,804</b>		<b>\$ 36,000</b>	<b>\$ 35,400</b>	<b>\$ 37,100</b>
<b>010800 Social Concerns</b>	<b>\$ 330</b>		<b>\$ 500</b>	<b>\$ 330</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>
<b>020000. Ministry of Parish Life</b>					
020100 Adult Sunday Church School	\$ 112		\$ 500	\$ 125	\$ 400
020200 Catechism	\$ 448		\$ 900	\$ 5-	\$ 800
020201 Camperships	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
020300 Children's Sunday Church School	\$ 878		\$ 1,200	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,300
020400 Cradle Roll	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
020500 Fellowship Activities	\$ 1,175		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,500
020501 Care Team	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
020600 My Family and Me	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
020700 VBS	\$ 331		\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500
020800 Youth Ministry/Activities	\$ 529		\$ 1,000	\$ 700	\$ 1,000
020900 Member Seminarian Scholarships	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
<b>Subtotal for 020000. Ministry of Parish Life</b>	<b>\$ 4,473</b>		<b>\$ 7,100</b>	<b>\$ 6,225</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>

### **Brent Welch:**

Hello Advent Congregation,

My name is Brent Welch, and I have been nominated to run for Advent's Church Council. My wife Erin, I, and our four daughters have been attending Advent for about 14 years now, and it is a wonderful place to worship! I work for the Franklin County Engineer's Office as the Chief Financial Officer and spend most of my spare time with my family and friends, or at my daughters' various activities.

In my time at Advent, I have been blessed to have been part of the Council team for 8 years, including acting as the Council's Secretary, Vice President, and President. In the past, I have been part of the Worship and Witness and Parish Life teams. I am currently the President of the Council.

I would welcome another term on Council if I were elected.

Thank you and God Bless,

Brent

### **Dustin Bunch:**

Hello Advent,

My name is Dustin Bunch and I have been nominated to re-run for Advent's Church Council. My wife Laura, our three children, and I, have been attending Advent for about 6 years now and it is a wonderful place to worship! I even refused to change churches after moving to Delaware, OH. I work for Nationwide Children's Hospital as the Director of Laboratory Informatics Services & Data Analytics and Asst. Director of Clinical Chemistry and spend most of my spare time with my family and friends.

I once again want to apply my gifts to the church that has served me so well. The last two years, I have served on church council here at Advent Lutheran Church and have helped facilitate multiple events in the last two years. I have also served on church council at previous churches. Where I was part of the Social Media and Website Committee and Outreach Committee.

If elected, I would welcome a term on Council.

Thank you and God Bless,

Dustin

### Beth Pittman:

My name is Beth Pittman, and I've been a member at Advent for about 25 years now. During my time here, I've served in several different roles - I have been the adult choir and bell choir director, I taught Sunday School and served on the Parish Life team, and I currently participate regularly in the music ministry and serve on Altar Guild. Both of my kids were born and baptized here, as well. Advent has been my church family for many years, and I look forward to doing my best to serve in this new capacity.

### Amy Lytle:

I have been a member of Advent Church for over 30 years, actively serving the congregation in a variety of roles including altar guild member, usher, assistant minister, and multiple terms as a church council member. Currently serving as the Council secretary, I bring a deep commitment to the life and mission of Advent, rooted in years of faithful involvement and leadership.

Recently retired from a career as a sales engineer at OCLC, I am honored to serve on Advent's Council during this important time of transition. As Advent moves forward in discerning our direction and calling a new pastor, I am grateful for the opportunity to help guide and support the congregation through prayer, service, and a shared vision for the future.

### Norma Pitts:

Norma is widowed, and has two step children Steve and Teresa, three grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She is retired from the former Department of Consumer and Textile Sciences at the Ohio State University with 25 years tenure. She served as Clothing Specialist with OSU Extension, teaching in various communities throughout the state and resourcing county and district Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators. She helped with the Ohio 4-H Clothing program. She authored or co-authored many consumer fact sheets and bulletins, as well as, 4-H clothing project books. She also participated in research projects. She enjoys some professional organizations and retiree groups in retirement. Prior to OSU, Norma began her career as a home economics teacher at Franklin Heights, Southwestern city schools for 7 years.

Norma has been a member of the Advent family since September, 2000. She currently serves on Council, Worship and Witness Team, Isabel's Quilters, Altar Guild, and a worship team. She helps with costuming for Live Nativity and 'Is it I Lord?'. She serves with the snack team for VBS. She enjoys euchre group. She is happy to worship in person with our Advent family and looks forward to continuing to serve and share faith with others.